

A LUCKY
BOOK

35¢

The Secret Cat



Story by TAMARA KITT
Pictures by WILLIAM RUSSELL

The Secret Cat





WHY THIS IS AN EASY READER

This story has been carefully written to keep the young reader's interest high.

It is told in a simple, open style, with a strong rhythm that adds enjoyment both to reading aloud and silent reading.

There is a very high percentage of words repeated. *It is this skillful repetition which helps the child to read independently.* Seeing words again and again, he practices the vocabulary he knows and learns with ease the words that are new.

Only 102 different words have been used, with plurals, root words, and compounds counted once.

80 words — *more than three quarters of the total vocabulary* — are used at least three times.

Nearly two thirds of the words are used at least five times.

One fifth of the words have been used at least 22 times. Some words have been used 51 times.

ABOUT THIS STORY

The strong, appealing rhythm encourages children to read aloud with natural phrasing and expression. The story itself is full of suspense and invites dramatization.

This title and other books in this series of *Easy Readers* are also available in a Wonder Book edition at 59¢ and a Grosset & Dunlap library edition at \$1.18 net.

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Story by TAMARA KITT

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Editorial Consultant: LILIAN MOORE

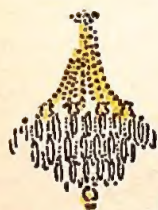


SCHOLASTIC BOOK SERVICES

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There was a prince



and there was
a princess.



There was a king

and there was
a queen.





The king was the father, of course.
The queen was the mother, of course.
And, of course,
the prince was the little boy.
And, of course,
the princess was the little girl.
And oh, yes! There was . . .



... a cat.

He was a secret cat.



The king did not know
about the cat.

The queen did not know
about the cat.



He was the secret cat
of the prince and princess.
And they loved him.

The cat was very smart.
You will see how smart he was.
You will see how he helped
the prince and princess.





The prince and the princess are sad.

Today is the queen's birthday.

And they do not have
a birthday present to give her.



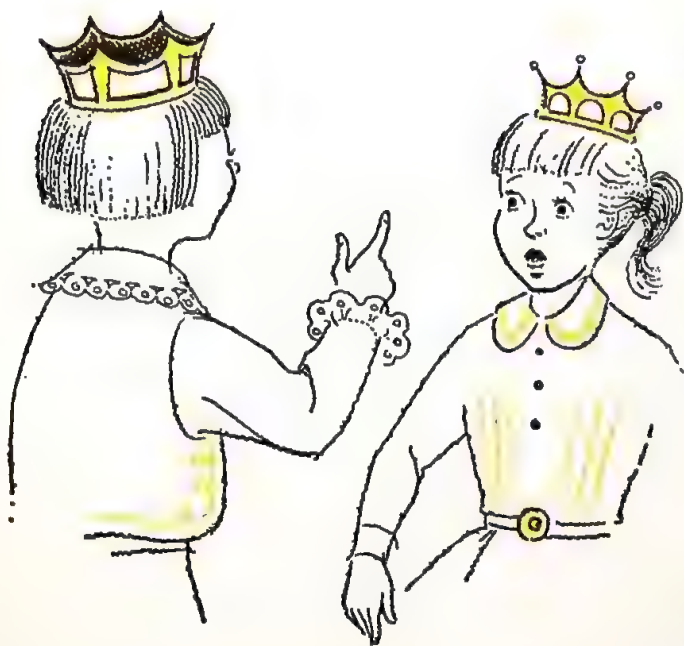
"It is a shame," the princess says.

"It is a dirty shame.

I am a princess,
and you are a prince,
and we cannot get
a birthday present
to give Mom, the queen."



"We can sell our crowns,"
says the prince.





"Sell our crowns?" the princess says.

"NO!

You are a prince.

A prince cannot sell his crown.

I am a princess.

A princess cannot sell her crown."

"What can we do?" says the prince.



"Meow!"

The cat is trying to say,
"I know what you can do."

"I know what we can do,"
says the prince.

"That is a smart cat.

Maybe we can trade him
for something.

Then we will have a present
for Mom, the queen."

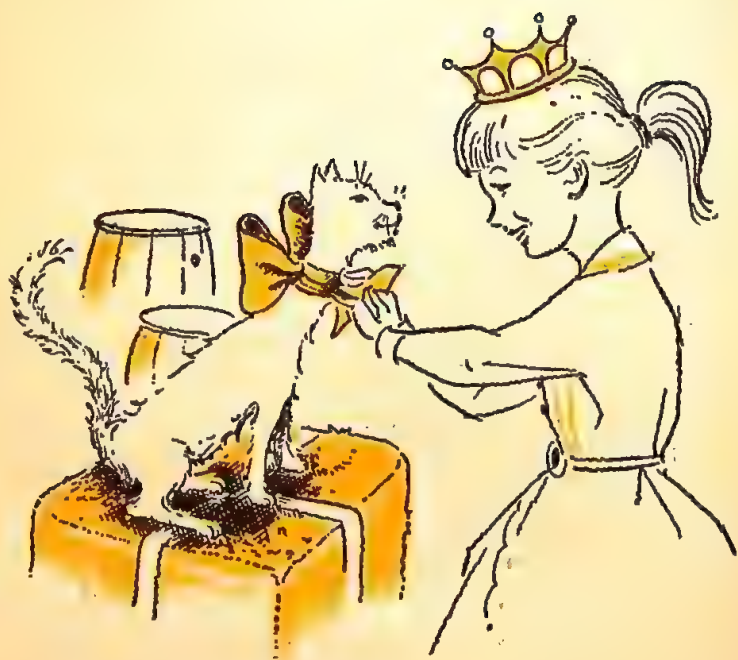
"Trade our cat?" the princess says.

"Meow!"

The cat is trying to say,

"Why not?"





"Oh, well, why not?"

the princess says.

She puts a big bow on the cat.

She kisses him.

And she says, "Let's go."

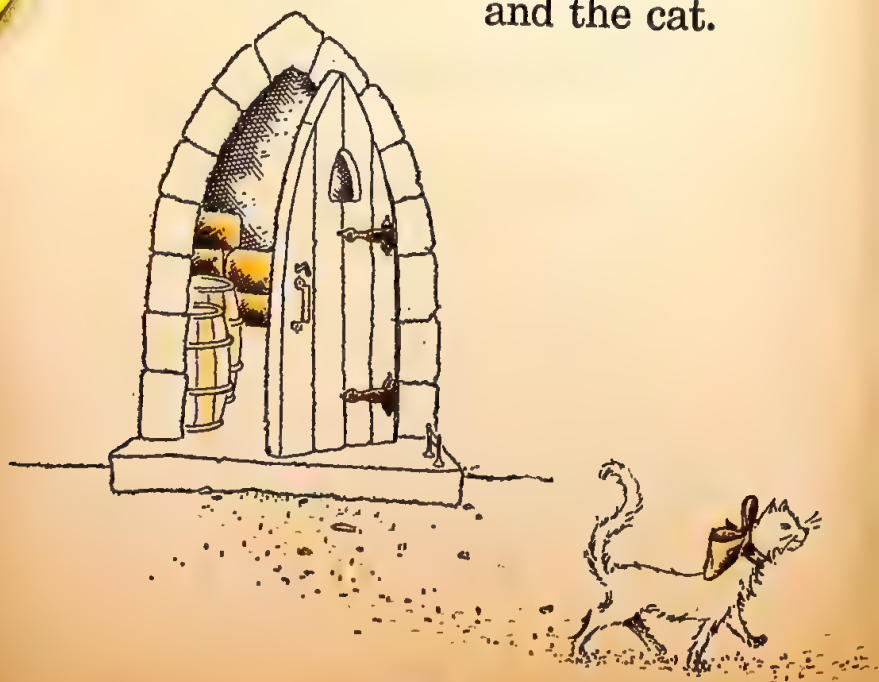


So they go—

the prince,

the princess,

and the cat.

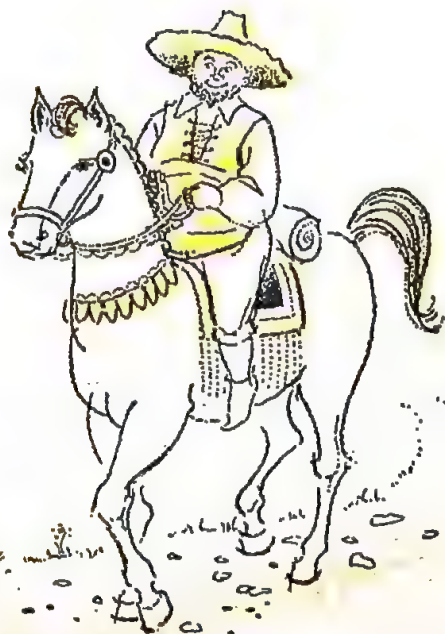




They see a man
on a big white horse.
"Hello," says the man.
"Hello," says the prince.
"That is a fine horse you have."



"That is a fine cat you have,"
says the man.



"He is a smart cat, too,"
the princess says.

The cat does a trick.



"He IS a smart cat," the man says.

"He is a very smart cat.

Will you trade?

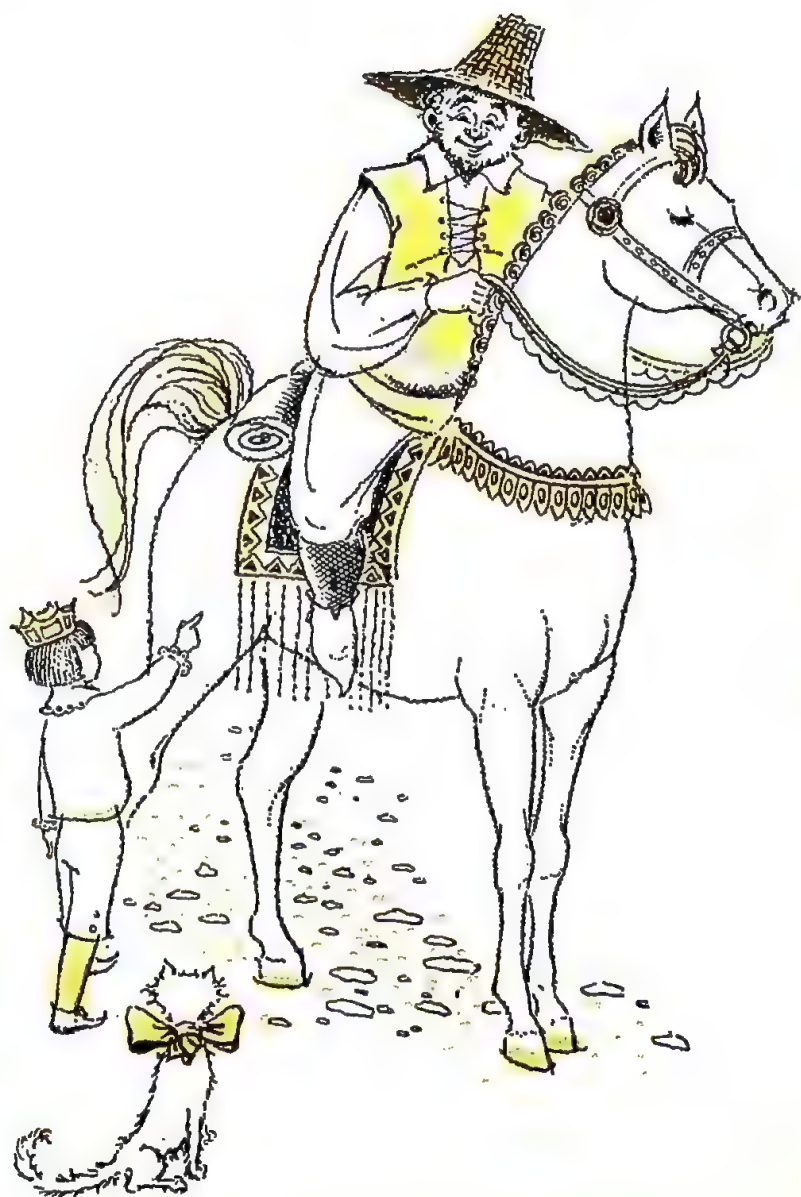
Give me the cat,

and I will give you my horse."

"A horse is a fine present

for Mom, the queen,"

says the prince.



"No," the princess says.

"The man likes our cat
better than the horse.

Maybe our cat

IS better than the horse."



"Meow!"

The cat is trying to say,

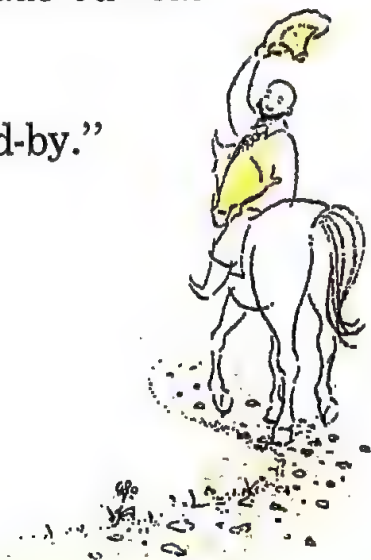
"That's right."



"Yes. That's right," says the prince.

"We will not trade our cat
for your horse.

Thank you. Good-by."

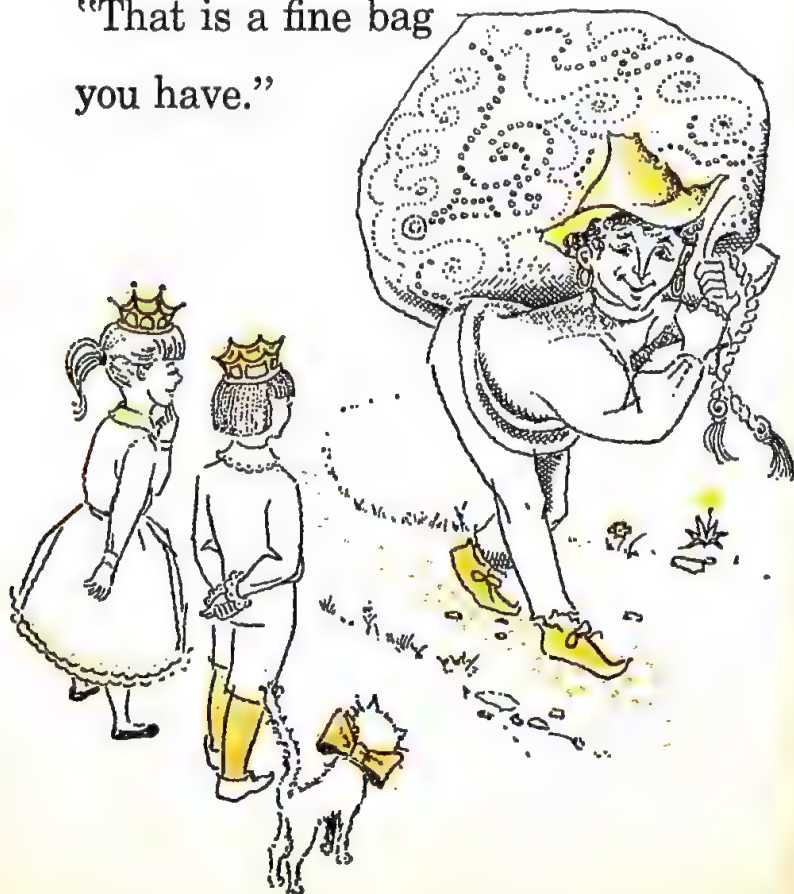


Now they see a man
with a big blue bag.

"Hello," says the man.

"Hello," says the prince.

"That is a fine bag
you have."





"That is a fine cat you have,"
says the man.

"He is a smart cat, too,"
the princess says.

The cat does a trick.



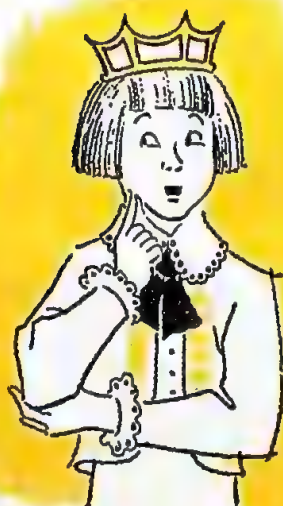
"He IS a smart cat," the man says.

"He is a very smart cat.

Will you trade?
Give me the cat,
and I will give you my big bag
with all these things."



"A big bag is a fine present
for Mom, the queen,"
says the prince.



"No," the princess says.

"The man likes our cat
better than the big bag.
Maybe our cat IS better
than the big bag
with all those things."



"Meow!" the cat says.



The cat is trying to say,
"That's right."

"Yes. That's right," says the prince.

"We will not trade our cat
for your bag.

Thank you. Good-by."



Now they see a lady
with a ring made of gold.

"Hello," says the lady.

"Hello," says the prince.

"That is a fine ring
you have."



"That is a fine cat you have,"
says the lady.

"He is a smart cat, too,"
the princess says.





The cat does a trick.

"He IS a smart cat," the lady says.

"Will you trade?

Give me your cat,

and I will give you my ring

made of gold."



"A ring is a fine present
for Mom, the queen,"
says the prince.



"No," the princess says.

"The lady likes our cat
better than the ring.

Maybe our cat IS better
than the ring made of gold."

“Meow!” the cat says.

The cat is trying to say,

“That’s right.”



"Yes. That's right," says the prince.

"We will not trade our cat
for your ring.

Thank you. Good-by."



Now it is time to go home.

"We still do not have
a birthday present
for Mom, the queen,"
says the prince.



"Yes, we do! Yes, we do!"

the princess says.

"We have a fine present.

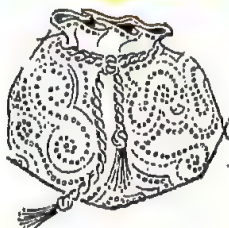
It is better

than a ring made of gold.



It is better

than a big blue bag.



It is better

than a big white horse.

You will see."



"Meow!" the cat says.

The cat is trying to say,

"THAT'S RIGHT."



Now it is time
for the birthday present.
"Happy birthday!" says the prince.
The princess says,
"Happy birthday,
dear Mom, the queen.
Happy birthday to you!"



"Thank you!"

The queen is very happy.

The king says,

"A cat is a fine present."

The prince and princess are happy.

The queen has a birthday present.

But they are sad, too.

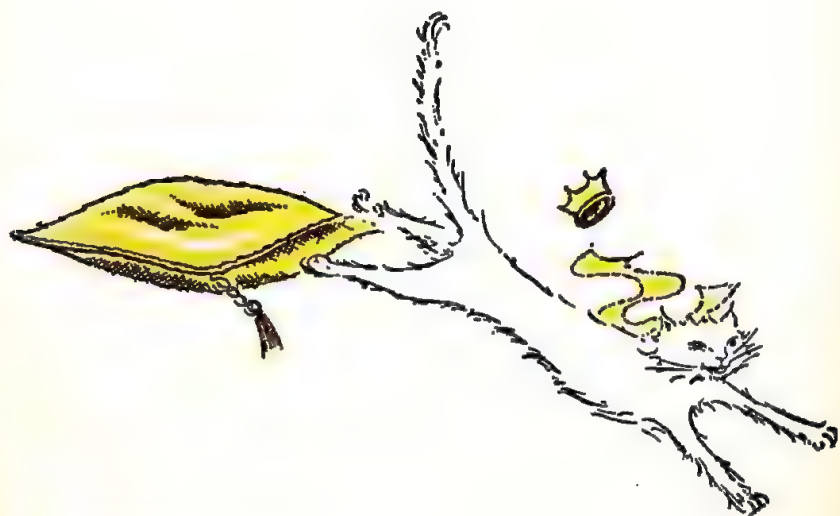
Now they do not have a secret cat.

Now they do not have a cat at all.

They say good-by to the cat
and they go out.







"Meow! Meow!"

The cat is trying to say,

"Wait! Wait! I am coming, too."

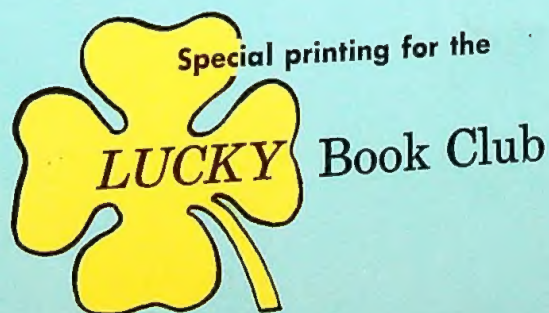
I am the queen's birthday present,
but I am *your* cat!"











Special printing for the

Book Club